



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Green Mountain National Forest
Manchester Ranger District

www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl

2538 Depot St.
Manchester Ctr., VT 05255
Tel. (802) 362-2307
FAX (802) 362-1251

File Code: 1950

Date: July 20, 2011

Invitation for Comments Dorset Peru Integrated Resource Project

Please Reply by August 26, 2011

Dear Interested Parties:

The USDA Forest Service, Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) is proposing a wide variety of management activities collectively called the Dorset Peru Integrated Resource Project (Dorset Peru Project). The project area is located primarily in the Towns of Dorset and Peru with the remaining portions in the Towns of Manchester and Winhall, VT. There are about 41,700 acres of land within the project area with about 35 percent consisting of National Forest System (NFS) lands, 62 percent in private ownership, and about 3 percent in State and Town ownership.

All proposed activities (proposed action) are located on NFS lands, although the Forest Service is also interested in identifying any potential activities to include on non-NFS lands that would complement land management objectives across ownership boundaries. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to disclose the potential environmental effects of the Dorset Peru Project proposed action. The proposal includes a variety of vegetation management treatments to achieve multiple resource benefits as provided by direction in the 2006 GMNF Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The proposal also includes activities to improve wildlife and fish habitat, restore soil and water conditions, increase recreation opportunities, address transportation system needs, and protect or enhance heritage resource sites. The enclosed Scoping Information document and maps provide specific information regarding the proposed action.

The Forest Service has been working with individuals, organizations, towns and agencies since 2007 to develop potential management activities designed to implement the Forest Plan and work toward desired future conditions within the Dorset Peru project area. There have been numerous public meetings, workshops and field trips conducted in an effort to understand how the public desires to manage this area of the National Forest. Many of you have attended one or more of these functions and your participation has been greatly appreciated. Our resource specialists have also been collecting additional field information to further explore many of your ideas. The culmination of this effort has resulted in this proposed action.

We recognize that this proposal will not satisfy everyone's desires, interests or concerns. It is my hope that you will let us know whether we have compiled the right mix of management



activities to move forward with in this area at this time. The NEPA “scoping” process is your opportunity to help us identify other information and possible options we may pursue in order to meet our common objectives. With this in mind, I would like to invite your comments on the Dorset Peru Project proposed action to help us identify any issues or concerns, and recommend alternative actions or mitigating measures to address potential resource impacts. Your comments will be considered as we conduct our analysis and prepare an EA that will disclose the resource effects from the proposed action and any alternatives that may be developed to address issues raised during the scoping process

As the District Ranger for the Manchester Ranger District, I am the Responsible Official for the Dorset Peru Project. The primary decision that I will make based on the EA is to determine whether the proposed action is appropriate for the project area at this time. I may find, through this scoping effort and the environmental analysis, that there are additional opportunities, consistent with Forest Plan direction that need to be explored. Likewise, the finding may be that there are conditions or unforeseen issues that would limit the proposal. A preliminary EA documenting the environmental analysis will be distributed for a 30-day notice and comment period scheduled for January 2012. A final EA and decision will then be completed in May 2012, with implementation of the project to commence shortly thereafter beginning in the summer. Your specific comments and suggestions can help us make the best decision to manage the resources in the Dorset Peru project area.

Comments received in response to this invitation, including name and address of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public review. If you decide to comment, you will automatically be notified of the opportunity to submit additional comments during the 30-day notice and comment period for the preliminary EA, as well as the final EA and decision document following completion of the environmental analysis process. If you do not have specific comments, but wish to continue receiving information about this project, please fill out and return the attached ‘Request for Project Documents’ form or you will be removed from the Dorset Peru Project mailing list.

In order for your comments to be considered, they should be received by **August 26, 2011** and submitted in c/o Melissa Reichert, Project Team Leader in one of the following ways:

- Written comments
 - Mail: USDA Forest Service, 231 North Main Street, Rutland, VT 05701
 - FAX: (802) 747-6766, ATTN: Dorset Peru Project
 - Email: comments-eastern-green-mt-finger-lakes-manchester@fs.fed.us
- Oral Comments
 - Oral comments can be received in person at the Supervisor’s Office at 231 North Main Street, Rutland, VT 05701 or via telephone (802) 747-6754 during normal business hours, Monday - Friday (8:00 am – 4:30 pm).

In your comments, please include the following information:

1. Your name, address, email address (if available) and telephone number
2. The project you are commenting on: Dorset Peru Project
3. Site specific comments about the proposal along with supporting information you believe will help identify issues, develop alternatives, or predict environmental effects of our proposal

You may also obtain additional information associated with the Dorset Peru Project proposed action on our website at:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/greenmountain/htm/greenmountain/links/projects/nepa_project.htm?project=32091

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Melissa Reichert, Project Team Leader at USDA Forest Service, 231 North Main Street, Rutland, VT, 05701 (mail); 802-747-6766 (facsimile); mmreichert@fs.fed.us (email); or call Melissa directly at 802-747-6754 (Voice).

Thank you for your interest in the Green Mountain National Forest and the management of the Dorset Peru project area. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Alex Sienkiewicz

ALEX SIENKIEWICZ
District Ranger

Enclosures: Scoping Information
Project Maps (Maps 1, 2 and 3)
'Request for Project Documents' form